

Robert Michie was born in Rubslaw near Aberdeen, Scotland 29 Feb. 1820. His father was a farm laborer and his mother a farm house servant so he was raised in humble circumstances. At the age of four he was sent to school and learned to read and spell. At the age of 8, for two years, he started being hired out summers to herd cows and school in the winter. It was here he first became acquainted with the milling business and liked it. He started hiring out at different farms staying several years at the same farm. He did this until he was 21. At this time he tried to get an apprenticeship as a millwright but could not find a master so found a miller who wanted an apprentice. He bound himself for 4 years for board and room and no wages. After 3 years he got an abatement and received \$150.00 a year. He did this for three years.

Robert then had a chance to emigrate to Africa or Australia. He chose Africa and sailed from London in June 1848 and landed in Cape Town. He worked as a miller but found the employer would not bide by his agreement so left. He tried tanning leather but did not like it. He then worked 3 years at a wool washing and packing shed. When the owner died, he went to farming. Robert and a partner bought and ran a farm.

About this time, he read books from Mormon Elders. He prayed and received assurance of the divinity of Joseph Smith and his work. He was baptized Dec. 1854. His partner and his wife also joined the Mormons. The neighbors began to insult them so Robert determined to come to Utah.

He first sailed to England and enroute met a fellow traveler. Through him he met his wife to be Francis Potts. Robert and Francis married March 16, 1857 and in less than two weeks sailed from Liverpool, England. It took all their money to get to Boston. They stayed in Boston 4 years where Robert worked mainly as a foreman in a salt mill. At this time they had enough money to buy supplies and equipment to cross the plains.

The men all walked, also, the woman who could. Robert told his grand-daughter he walked every step of the way from the Missouri River. When his shoes wore out, he had no more so walked 500 miles barefoot.

They lived in Malad Idaho, Nephi, Sugarhouse, Mountain Dell, Bench Creek (Woodland) and Heber City. Robert was a miller by trade so moved where he could find work. He helped build the grist mill in Kamas and Heber City. He ran the grist mill in Heber for about 8 years around 1880 to 1888. Robert and Francis had bought a farm in Bench Creek in 1876 which they returned to when new rollers were bought for the mill. Robert served as Senior President of the 20th Quorum of Seventies when in Heber. From 1893 to 1901 he was Postmaster in Woodland. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. They had ten children, six of whom grew to adulthood. In his later years Robert had a few colonies of bees, and had the hobby of making grindstones and willow baskets.

by  
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